

TOMBSTONE EPITAPH

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The Oldest Newspaper in Cochise County

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TO DISTRICT COCHISE COUNTY

About one of the first things the new board of supervisors will do when they take office on January 1st will be to redistrict Cochise county in conformity with the supervisory districting law and the legislative districting bill, which passed at the last general election.

Other counties have been operating under the supervisory district law, and Cochise county will be made to come under the law also, according to announcement. The law provides that each county be divided into three districts according to proportion of population and each district nominate a supervisor at the primary election with the exception, of course, of a holdover, which will come from one of the three districts each election. At the general election, however, the county as a whole will vote on the nominees, and it is aimed in this wise to get an equal representation on the board from all parts of the county. A reasonable way to divide the county would be to make Douglas one district, Bisbee the second and the balance of the county include the third. This would give almost an equal population representation.

The legislative districting law passed November 5 by the vote of the people, provides a representative for each 1500 population and two senators at large in counties like Cochise. Under the new law it is calculated that Cochise county will be allowed two more representatives than at present, making nine in all.

With these two laws in operation in Cochise county, considerable more satisfaction should be received by the voters, in that they would know more generally for whom they were casting their ballot, which in the end, will result in more satisfaction all around.

MORE GOOD DOPE

We still claim that Editor Lancaster of the San Simon Valley News is one of the best posted men on county seat removal matters in the county and no doubt our readers will agree with us when they read the following from his pen this week:

At the recent election 3881 votes were cast against county seat removal, and 3806 votes for, making a total of 7687. To have been able to remove the county seat, Douglas should have had 60 per cent of this total, or 4612 votes. The number she did get put her short 806 votes. Yet Douglas has entered suit to contest the election. The Douglas contention seems to be that when a voter voted "No" he should have stopped. There was a blank, you remember, which said, "In case of removal, _____." On this many voted for Bisbee after voting "No." This, says Judge McCall, renders this vote illegal. And, (holds Judge McCall) because so many people voted "No" and then voted "Tombstone," if such votes be adjudged illegal, then Douglas will have a majority of 60 per cent. It seems that Douglas does not even claim a majority of sentiment as expressed at the polls, but seeks, under a technicality, to nullify enough voters to count Douglas in, even when it is plain that a majority are against removal. What interpretation, for instance can be placed on a vote like this: "For county seat removal, NO, in case of removal, Tombstone"? If this is anything but a vote against removal it is simply two votes against removal.

WE MAY BE RIGHT

Major Kelly has given his pet kitten away. The feline used to amuse him by playing on the keys of the typewriter, but it went too far. When it got to interfering with his editorials, a halt had to be called. The above is from the "Rookie" of the Douglas Dispatch, and accounts for, no doubt the following outburst in the columns of the International:

Judging by the grouch that has recently overcome the Tombstone Prospector the amount of confidence in that city retaining the county seat is not widespread or overpowering.

It is hardly possible that Major Kelly would give vent to such amusing lines, and the only conclusion to the paragraph is that the Major's cat pounded it out on the typewriter before he got rid of him. To the Major and his cat, however, we would casually add that if there is any lack of confidence around the Prospector or the City of Tombstone we have failed to find it. Because, we believe that the last move of Bruce Stephenson and S. W. Call does not carry much weight.

According to a government statement half a million cans of condensed milk have just been shipped to Europe, "most of which will go to save Belgian babies, 1,250,000 of whom were left helpless when their parents were deported by Germans." Notwithstanding Dr. Solf's plaints about the Germans' need of food, we don't know whether they are in any real danger of starvation. But we do know the condition of their victims.

The railroads will retain the services of 100,000 women. It is probably that many other enterprises will follow the same course. It is plain that as a result of the war woman has established herself in occupations which formerly were regarded as the sphere of man exclusively.

The new "Watch on the Rhine" is of American make.

SENATOR ASHURST ASKS GIFT OF OLD UNIFORMS TO THE MEN IN SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Give every discharged United States soldier, sailor or marine his uniform—and with it 90 days extra pay. That's the plan Senator Henry F. Ashurst of Arizona wants the government to adopt as part of its demobilization program.

Senator Ashurst knows that the average soldier will come out of the army without a Buffalo nickel to his name and that he'll have to buy a suit of civilian clothes to replace his uniform, under existing laws.

So he has combined two objects in one bill which he has introduced in the senate. It was the first bill introduced at the December session of congress.

Some Soldiers Prize, Some Need Uniforms

"It must be obvious," said Senator Ashurst, in explaining the purpose of his measure, "that every soldier highly prizes his uniform. Some are so circumstanced that they will want to wear their uniforms and save the expense of an extra suit of clothing after they are discharged.

"Moreover, as the years go by and reviews are held, each soldier will want to wear his uniform in parades.

In September, 1915, I saw thousands of Union and Confederate veterans march up Pennsylvania avenue—the same avenue up which they marched after the close of the Civil war 50 years before—and a few of them wore the same uniforms they had worn in '65, which they treasured as priceless.

"The government can make no use of discarded uniforms, and if it retains them they will only be moth-eaten and destroyed.

"As to granting 90 days' pay to each soldier, sailor or marine after his discharge, and we must not forget that we have taken these men out of gainful occupations and have wrenched them from civilian life, and they have served civilization with a courage and valor beyond eulogy.

Ashurst Plan to Cost Americans \$240 Each

"It will cost the United States \$240,000,000 to grant our men this extra 90 days' pay, but the patriotism of the people has been so well proved in the war that while this sum of money seems large, it will be cheerfully paid, in my judgment. It means only \$240 per person for the 100,000 people in this country.

"This payment, amounting to approximately \$100 to a private, will give the soldier some means on which to travel and replace himself in civil life.

"I am going to appeal to the American people to support this bill by writing their senators and representatives urging early and favorable action on it."

MERCHANTS OF STATE TO HAVE HEADQUARTERS

PHOENIX, Dec. 11.—Announcement was made here today by Charles B. Christy, secretary, that the recently organized Arizona Merchants' association is soon to open offices in the Noll building in this city.

The Arizona Merchants' association was informally organized several months ago, when a number of leading dealers in merchandise in the state met at Douglas to discuss the order issued by the state council of defense requiring all merchants to mark the cost price on salable articles. A week later these merchants met in Phoenix and organized formally, holding an election of officers, and appointing them members of the executive board.

Twenty-five towns of Arizona are represented in the Arizona Merchants' association, and seven or eight leading mercantile organizations. In addition to the executive board a board of governors was appointed composed of a representative from the larger cities and towns. As membership in the association grows, and new towns are represented in it, it is expected to add representatives from each of these places to the governing board.

Promotion and protection of the interests of the merchant class are contained in the plans for activity outlined by the organization and legislation of remedial measures such as will assist merchants in the proper conduct of their business as well as safeguard it.

JOHN L. SMYTHE IS DEAD IN CALIFORNIA. RESULT PNEUMONIA

News has been received here of the death at Coachella, Cal., of John L. Smythe, formerly of the Fairbank Commercial company at Fairbank, and widely known throughout South Arizona. Mr. Smythe's death followed a brief illness with pneumonia and will be learned of by his friends in this state with regret. He was 48 years of age and is survived by his wife, three sisters, his mother, a member of the earliest California families and now residing in Los Angeles, and his brother, Fred Smythe, with whom he was engaged in the mercantile business at Coachella.

John Smythe was an upright, generous, progressive business man from who all benefited who came in contact with his unflinching cheerfulness to his friends and his care for those dear to him was that of one in thousands, higher words than which cannot be spoken. The loss they sustain is not repairable. The loss of his public spirit and enterprise falls upon the communities in which he was interested in both California and Arizona in mercantile pursuits, agriculture and mining. To the latter, with his brother, he was always ready with a helping hand, and at various times prosecuted much development in the industry in which he had considerable interests in Arizona at the time of his death.

Mr. Smythe was born in Anaheim, Cal., where interment occurred. Following mercantile experience there, and in Los Angeles, he came to Fairbank and later acquired an interest in the business of the Fairbank Commercial company. In this association he had much to do with supplying the commissary department of the South Pacific and of the E. P. & S. W., during several years of active construction work in Arizona and gained wide acquaintance and many warm friendships all along the railroad lines.

While located at Fairbank he married Miss Lucy Fisher, daughter of a well known mining man of early days in Tombstone and Charleston, and one of the few who have maintained practically continuous operations in these districts. Later he went to Los Angeles to take the management of an importance enterprise, thereafter going to the newly-developing date and cotton country of the Coachella valley, where he gave largely to the splendid upbuilding which has come about in the last several years in the Salton sea region.

An indefatigable worker, ever untainted by a single selfish thought, unacquainted with any manner of conduct other than that of entire frankness and wholly fair play, generous to a fault, he made a niche in every heart that came to know him that will not allow forgetfulness as time passes.

TUCSON AND SIX OTHER ARIZONA DISTRICTS WIN RED CROSS HONOR FLAGS

TUCSON, Dec. 9.—Red Cross chapters to which honor banners were awarded for their efforts in the second war fund drive include: San Pedro, Gustine, Inyo county; Mare Island, Plumas county and Calexico, in California; White Pine county, Clark county, Mineral county, Sparks and McGill, in Nevada, and Verde mining districts, Tucson, Apache-Navajo, Williams and Warren mining district in Arizona.

The awards were made at the two Christmas roll call conferences held in San Francisco and Los Angeles, December 4 and 5.

ARIZONA STOCKMEN LOSE \$2,000,000 YEARLY BY WORK OF RANGE PESTS

PHOENIX, Dec. 11.—According to M. E. Musgrave, of the United States biological survey, in charge of the work of eliminating predatory animals on western livestock ranges, losses in Arizona from predatory animals amount to about \$2,000,000 a year.

The greatest destruction is by coyotes, with wolves and mountain lions following in order. The work of exterminating such animals is now well organized, with 13 hunters in the field supported by the United States and state jointly.

ARIZONA WEEKLY INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

Flagstaff—The three lumber mills in this vicinity get eight-hour day.

About 60 cars oranges will be shipped from Salt River valley. Blythe—Shipyards established here to build flat boats for Colorado river. Phoenix gets state medical library. Kingman—Emerald Isle Copper Co., using leaching plant, making good profits.

Mahoney Brothers take control of famous Silver Belt mine.

Phoenix—Mesa Cotton Growers' association organizes to promote cotton interests get better understanding as to picking conditions and grow better cotton.

Flagstaff—Winter road work being planned for Superior-Miami road and Clifton-Solomonville road. Gila river bridge will be completed also.

Kingman—Car of Mohave county ore nets producer \$2368.

Phoenix—Denn-Arizona mine is developing favorably. Good pockets of high-grade ore found.

Jerome—United Verde Extension mining richest ore in country. Copper content about 16 per cent. Smelter of 1000 tons daily capacity almost completed.

Yuma—Yuma Irrigation project, the reclamation service and Imperial Valley Irrigation system approved by Secretary Franklin K. Lane.

Prescott—Octave Mining company begins construction of big gold reduction of stamp type. Capacity at least 250 tons daily.

Benson—Large bodies gold-silver lead ore uncovered on Los Conquistadores property.

Ajo—New Cornelia declares initial payment of 25 cents per share.

Phoenix—With organization of Arizona Association of Mining Men, new epoch in industry expected.

Ajo—New Cornelia Mining company to stand almost entire cost of \$125,000.

Prescott—Entire county wool clip for season sold for 60 to 62 cents.

Phoenix—Improvement on city hall to be started at once.

Holbrook—Building Navajo railroads to be resumed.

Nogales—4343 Mexicans imported since last June, 915 returned.

Kingman—2 per cent dividend paid by Tom Reed company, first in two years.

Tucson—Vein disclosing 60 feet copper ore opened in Magnate mine.

Kingman—Fountain Head tunnel in 200-foot property looks good.

The prospects for the lumber industry and the building trades for 1919 are better than at any time the past year.

Phoenix—Ban on using gold and silver by manufacturers lifted. Local automobile firm will accept cotton as payment for cars.

MORROW WOUNDED TWICE IN BATTLE: HE WRITES HERE

BISBEE, Dec. 9.—Robert E. Morrow, a former Bisbee boy, saw service in the great war, where the fighting was hardest and where the doughboys fell like autumn leaves before the boche fire. Morrow, who was severely wounded in this battle, tries to cover up his heroism with philosophy and humor when he writes from the hospital to his friends, Mr. and Mrs. George Poole of this city, as follows:

"I was wounded twice while covering 100 feet of ground. First, a six-inch shell exploded by me and a fragment pierced my left arm. Then, as I started to make my way to the rear I'll be doggoned if a German machine gun sniper did not take a pot shot at me and get me with a bullet in the right arm. Pretty touch luck, eh? But I don't know, guess I was mighty lucky he got out that place alive. Hundreds of our boys all around me fell and never moved after they sank to the ground. I'm in the base hospital on the road to rapid recovery and every kindness and attention are shown to me."

CAMP CODY TO BE USED FOR CONVALESCENTS

CAMP CODY, Dec. 12.—It was announced here today that this camp would be used only for a convalescent hospital for returning soldier. The present base hospital will be left standing for this purpose. Major Charles H. Reese, construction quartermaster, has arrived here to supervise the destruction of the remaining buildings at Camp Cody.

SOME FACTS OF ALCALI IN ARIZONA

By C. J. King.

Biophysical Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture

A number of inquiries have come to this office with regard to the possibilities of utilizing, temporarily, some of the land that has been laid waste by the rising water table and its insupportable ally, noxious salts. It has been estimated that there are nearly 50,000 acres in the valley in this condition, some of which has been in former times the most productive under the project. While great hopes are being entertained for the reclamation of these tracts through the pumping project now under way, the owners are much interested in having it produce as much as possible at this period of exigency when every acre is needed for production of food for the allies.

The first remedy that the agricultural expert thinks of when alkali lands are mentioned, is gypsum. The late Dr. Hilgard of the California experimental station, many years ago recommended gypsum for this purpose and without doubt it has been a great boon to many western farmers. In many cases, though, it has proved a disappointment. It was these failures which led member of this office to undertake investigations with regard to the reactions which occur in the soil when "black alkali" is formed and the reactions which occur when gypsum is applied.

It was found that when "black alkali" (sodium carbonate) is formed from the action of calcium carbonate on the sodium nitrate or the sodium chloride of the soil, gypsum may be used as a remedy to convert the sodium carbonate into a sulphate which is "white alkali" and less harmful to plants.

However, if the black alkali is being formed from sodium sulphate (Glauber's salt) by the reaction with calcium carbonate, or if the sodium sulphate is present either in the soil in company with other white alkali salts, or in the water, then gypsum is one of the products formed from the reaction, and neither this, nor any amount that the farmer might add will be effective in checking the formation of the "black alkali." Conditions here in the valley are ideal for this last reaction, for it takes place most readily when the land is swamped by excessive irrigations or by the rise of sub-water. Some samples taken recently from some of these areas show that the sulphates are present in abundance, and to add gypsum to such soils would doubtless be a waste of money. This fact does not prejudice the writer against the use of gypsum altogether, for it is very probable that in other places the black alkali is being formed from common salt or from sodium nitrate.

The method that is most commonly practiced in the valley at present for removing harmful salts from the soil surface is in leaching them out of the first foot or two by surface flooding. While on first impression this would seem to be bad medicine, in that the chief cause of the trouble is being used as a remedy, yet such practice appears to be the most feasible of any that the farmer can perform. While the salts are certain to come back in time, the seeds are given an opportunity to germinate and grow from a delicate into a more hardy existence. This plant is especially efficient in the case of alfalfa, since the older plants can tolerate four times as much alkali as the young seedlings. For this reason, old alfalfa growing on such soils, if producing anything worth cutting, should never be ploughed up to experiment with another planting. Its age and its shade are its chief protection.

One unproductive field in the valley showed a content of over 4 per cent common salt in the surface three inches, while at lower depths it did not exist in harmful amounts. Such a condition might be helped in some degree by scraping off the surface, plowing as deep as possible, and a continued practice of deep cultivation. None of these methods suggested can be expected to effect permanent relief. That will only be brought about when the cause is removed, and it is to be hoped that the pumps and drainage system to be installed will accomplish this. With all of the evils that are credited to alkali, it has one

DECEMBER 15-21 WILL BE OBSERVED AS WORLD RELIEF WEEK

PHOENIX, Dec. 9.—In the belief that the influenza epidemic has subsided sufficiently to allow the carrying out of previous plans, the federal food administration for Arizona today announced that December 15-21 will be observed in this state as World Relief Week. The campaign originally was to have been carried out during the first week in December.

The sternest task yet set for the American people, in the opinion of Washington authorities, is the shipment of 20,000,000 tons of foodstuffs to the allies and the smaller nations which have been released from the yoke of German culture. So many millions tons of food does not mean much to the average citizen, it is admitted; if it was thousands or billions it would look about the same to the man on the street. Translated into performance it is a tremendous undertaking. He shipped to Europe in the last year close to 12,000,000 tons of food. Now from stocks not materially larger we are pledged to send half as much again.

These are the facts which conservation workers will strive to drive home in the coming campaign. This will open Sunday, December 15, with the reading in all churches of all denominations of a special message from Herbert C. Hoover to the American people, which will make clear the path of duty of all loyal Americans—the duty of saving, of saving hard, saving every day and every meal the year round. It means scientific saving in each household, that it may be done without impairing the health or strength of the people, and all from the stock of food now on hand.

During World Relief Week, additional stress will be placed on Mr. Hoover's message by reading of it in all fraternal and patriotic organizations.

Wednesday, December 18, has been set aside as Women's Organization day. Special programs have been outlined and these will be carried out in all women's clubs. These plans have the active endorsement of the Federation of Women's Clubs and club leaders throughout the state.

On Friday, December 20, a special program will be carried out in all schools and colleges. This program has been placed in the hands of every school teacher through the National Service Bulletin, issued by the committee on public information. One of the features of the program will be the reading of a message from Mr. Hoover to the boys and girls of America. Arizona educators are lending their support to the movement.

In addition to the above, special gatherings will be held in many of the countries, in which local speakers will emphasize the need of the hour for general conservation to take the place of special conservation, as of sugar and wheat, in effect while the war was in progress.

Prominent club leaders in each county have been named as World Relief week chairmen. Most of these leaders were present at the recent conference of conservation workers held in Phoenix and were inspired by the remarks by Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford university World Relief Week chairmen, acting in co-operation with the county food administrators, will have charge of the coming campaign in their respective counties.

NOVEL'S HERO DIES

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 12.—John Lee, widely known cowman, and hero of Zane Gray's novel, "The Riders of the Purple Sage," was found dead in his cabin at Red Lake, San Juan county, Utah, about 250 miles south of here, according to reports reaching here tonight. Influenza was given as the cause of death.

A partner who worked with Lee for years, also was found dead in the cabin, the report added. Lee was 44 years old and had followed his calling in Arizona and southern Utah for nearly his entire life time.

Important virtue—that of rendering suitable valuable stores of plant food. Therefore, when a permanent remedy is secured in the removal of sub-water, the owners of alkali lands can reasonably expect to see them become profitably productive.